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THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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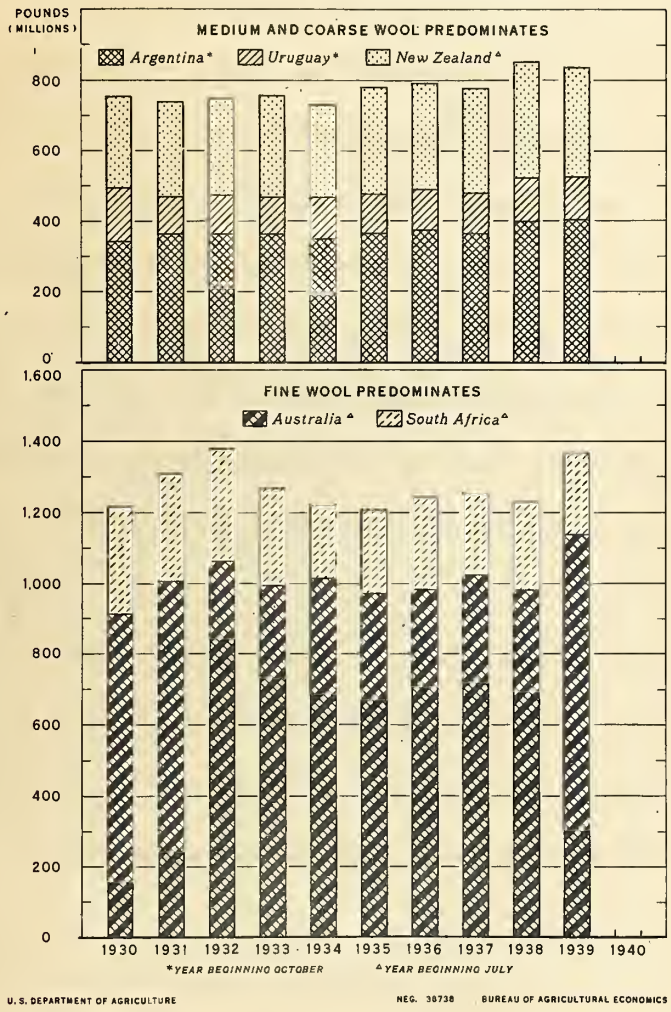
WOOL PRODUCTION IN PRINCIPAL SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE EXPORTING COUNTRIES, 1930-39 (GREASE BASIS)



MOST OF THE APPAREL WOOL ENTERING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS PRODUCED IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY. LARGE QUANTITIES OF WOOL FROM THESE COUNTRIES WERE SHIPPED TO CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BEFORE THE PRESENT WAR. BUT SO LONG AS THE BRITISH BLOCKADE OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT CONTINUES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES, AND JAPAN WILL BE THE ONLY IMPORTANT OUTLETS FOR EXPORTS OF WOOL FROM THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Summary

Mill consumption of apparel wool during the remainder of the current wool season, up to April 1, 1941, will be considerably greater than in the corresponding period a year earlier. This increase in consumption will reflect chiefly the large Army contracts for wool goods awarded in recent months.

The increase in mill consumption will be accompanied by a large increase in imports during the coming winter and spring. Large purchases of wool in Argentina and Uruguay have been made recently by United States buyers. Wool produced in these two countries, however, is chiefly medium and coarse wools, whereas United States requirements in the next several months will be for relatively large quantities of fine wools. A considerable volume of wool imports from the Union of South Africa and Australia, therefore, is expected, since Australian and South African production is mostly of fine wools.

For the entire year 1941, domestic mill consumption of wool probably will be larger than in 1940, and further increases in imports may occur. The high level of mill consumption in prospect for next year will be an important supporting factor to prices of wool from the 1941 clip in the United States.

Prices of most grades of domestic wool at Boston advanced 7 to 14 cents a pound, scoured basis, in October. Buying of wool to fill new Government orders, and a scarcity of offerings of fine domestic wool available for immediate delivery were important factors in the price advance.

United States imports for consumption of apparel wool in the first 9 months of this year totaled 133 million pounds. Such imports were more than

twice as large as imports in the same months last year, and the total for the calendar year 1940 probably will be much larger than in any recent year.

Consumption of apparel wool by United States mills in September was more than twice as large as in April - the low point of this year - and was 14 percent larger than in September 1939. Consumption on a scoured basis in the first 9 months of this year was 4 percent smaller than in the same months last year. In view of the high level of consumption in prospect for the final quarter of the year, it is likely that consumption in 1940 will be close to the 1939 total.

The supply of wool available in South America in the 1940-41 season probably will be somewhat larger than in the 1939-40 season. The prospective increase in supplies is the result of a larger carry-over of wool on October 1, 1940. No material change in production is in prospect, according to preliminary estimates for Argentina and Uruguay.

-- November 12, 1940

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

BACKGROUND.- Prices of wool in the United States rose sharply following the outbreak of the European war in September 1939. This rise was brought about by the prospects for a strong war demand for wool in certain foreign countries and the small stocks and relatively high mill consumption of raw wool in the United States. Mill consumption was reduced after October 1939, and prices declined moderately during the first half of 1940.

Wool imports were relatively large in the latter part of 1939 and in 1940, but stocks in this country remained smaller than the average stocks of recent years. Wool goods purchasing begun by the Government in June under the program for national defense resulted in a rapid increase in mill consumption of wool in this country, and prices turned upward.

Prices of domestic wool rise sharply in October

Prices of most grades of domestic wool at Boston advanced 7 to 14 cents a pound, scoured basis, in October. Buying of wool to cover new Government proposals announced early in the month, and a scarcity of offerings of fine domestic wool available for immediate delivery were important factors in the price advance.

Boston quotations on graded fine combing (staple) territory wools averaged $1.08 a pound, scoured basis, in the week ended November 2 compared with 95 cents a pound at the end of September. Prices of combing 3/8 blood territory wool averaged 88.5 cents a pound in the week ended November 2 and 80 cents a pound at the end of September. Country packed lots of 3/8 and 1/4 blood bright fleece wools sold at 45-46 cents a pound, grease basis, at the end of October, compared with 40 cents a pound at the end of September. Prices of fine and half-blood domestic wools at Boston at the end of October were slightly higher than a year earlier but prices of 3/8 blood and coarser grades of wool were lower than in late October 1939.

Wool tops

The near-capacity booking of commission combers for the remainder of the year and the relatively short supply of fine domestic wools available for current orders contributed to a strong domestic top situation, according to reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Average length oil combed 64s tops made entirely of domestic wool sold for $1.37-$1.40 at Boston at the end of October. Similar grade and length tops made of South American wools were sold at $1.20-$1.25 for delivery before the end of the year, and at $1.15-$1.18 for later delivery. Similar tops of Australian wool, to be delivered after the turn of the year, were offered at about $1.20 a pound.

Boston wool auctions in October 1/

Western grown wools were offered at auction in Boston during four consecutive days, including October 15 to 18, 1940. In this four-day series of wool auctions in Boston, a total of 4,608,925 pounds of western wools was offered, and 4,314,875 pounds were sold. Most of the wools offered in Boston had been offered at auction and were not sold last summer in the series held July 22 to August 3 in Denver, Colorado; Ogden, Utah; and Billings and Miles City, Montana. Grease basis prices on many of the lots sold in Boston were six to eight cents above the highest bids on the same lots offered at auctions in the West during the summer series.

The catalog of offerings of western wools in Boston was divided into three sections: Ogden, Denver, and Montana. Each section comprised the wools stored at each of the three western points. The Ogden section included the wools stored at Ogden, Utah; the Denver section included wools stored at Denver, Colorado; and the Montana section included wools stored mostly at Billings, Montana. Only sample bags of each lot offered were brought to Boston. Each morning during the days on which the auctions were held, sample bags of the lots to be offered on that day were made available for examination by the buyers. The sample bags were laid out on the floors of one of the large wool warehouses in Boston and buyers could examine these bags of wool to make their estimates of grade, length, shrinkage, and any other characteristics which buyers usually consider.

1/ From Agricultural Marketing Service Review of the Boston Wool Auctions, October 23, 1940.

Offerings of wools from each of the western cities included original bag as well as graded lines. A summary of offerings by cities where wools were stored is shown in the following table:

Wools offered and sold at Boston auction, October 13-18, 1940

Description	Total		Ogden		Denver		Billings	
	Offered	Sold	Offered	Sold	Offered	Sold	Offered	Sold
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Grand total	4,609	4,315	1,806	1,673	2,373	2,212	430	430
Original bag	2,927	2,758	1,038	1,030	1,725	1,564	164	164
Graded wools:								
Fine	764	764	201	201	349	349	214	214
1/2 blood	230	230	107	107	122	122	1	1
3/8 blood	505	443	331	269	135	135	40	40
1/4 blood	167	105	118	55	41	41	8	8
Miscellaneous	16	16	11	11	1	1	4	4

Scoured basis prices at the Boston wool auctions were in line with the scoured basis prices prevailing at the time in Boston. Fine wools, graded and in original bags, brought around $1.03-$1.08, scoured basis, for good French combing length; around .97-$1.02, scoured basis, for short to average French combing length; and 92-95 cents, scoured basis, for clothing - prices being estimated cost delivered Boston. Half-blood wools brought mostly .97-$1.02, scoured basis, for good French combing wools, and 92-95 cents for short French combing and clothing. Combing 3/8 blood brought 83-90 cents, while 1/4 blood wools were sold at mostly 78-83 cents, scoured basis, delivered Boston.

Bidding on the good lots was keen throughout the series, but draggy on inferior wools, or on wools of extremely heavy shrinkages. Worsted manufacturers, topmakers, and wool dealers participated in the buying. A summary of weighted averages and ranges of prices of wools sold from each section is shown in the following table:

Prices of wools sold at Boston auctions, October 13-18, 1940

Description	Ogden 1/		Denver 1/		Billings 1/	
	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Range	Weighted average	Range
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Original bag	32.0	28.0-39.2	31.3	22.5-40.2	34.4	30.0-39.2
Graded wools:						
Fine	30.9	28.5-33.8	32.3	23.5-37.8	36.3	30.2-37.0
1/2 blood	32.7	32.0-34.8	35.0	26.0-39.2	32.5	2/
3/8 blood	34.2	33.0-36.2	35.6	33.0-40.0	36.3	34.0-36.8
1/4 blood	35.4	34.0-37.2	36.2	33.5-41.0	38.8	38.0-39.0
Low 1/4 blood	34.5	2/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Scoured wool	3/	3/	92.0	2/	3/	3/
Mothy wool	3/	3/	3/	3/	27.5	2/
Black wool	3/	3/	3/	3/	23.0	2/

1/ Prices F.O.B. cars at point of storage. 2/ Only one lot offered.
3/ None offered.

Dealers and manufacturers stocks relatively small on September 28

Stocks of apparel wool reported by dealers and manufacturers totaled 263 million pounds, grease basis, on September 28 compared with 245 million pounds a year earlier, according to reports of the Bureau of the Census. The stocks reported on September 28 included 20 million pounds of wool afloat to the United States. If wool afloat is excluded, the stocks held by dealers and manufacturers on September 28 totaled 243 million pounds compared with 237 million pounds a year earlier and a September 30 average of about 286 million pounds in the 5 years 1935-39. These figures do not include wool on farms and ranches and in local warehouses in producing States.

Stocks of carpet wool reported by dealers and manufacturers, including wool afloat, totaled 54 million pounds on September 28, the same as a year earlier. September 30 stocks of carpet wool averaged 50 million pounds in the 5 years 1935-39. Stocks of apparel and carpet wool reported by quarters, 1935 to date, are shown on a grease basis in table 2. The accompanying table shows stocks reported by dealers and manufacturers on September 28 this year with comparisons, on a scoured equivalent basis.

Stocks of raw wool, tops, and noils held by dealers, manufacturers and topmakers, United States, September 28, 1940 with comparisons

Item	Scoured basis		
	1939	1940	
	Sept. 30 1/	June 29 1/	Sept. 28
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Apparel wool, total	118,514	128,585	127,423
Dealers	41,673	60,291	52,784
Domestic	33,954	48,025	39,152
Foreign on hand	6,456	10,982	9,208
Foreign afloat	1,263	1,284	4,424
Manufacturers and topmakers	76,841	68,294	74,639
Domestic	55,507	46,594	47,427
Foreign on hand	17,547	19,711	19,364
Foreign afloat	3,787	1,989	7,848
Carpet wool, total	37,411	46,244	40,085
Dealers	1,271	2,598	1,114
Manufacturers	36,140	43,646	38,971
Tops	19,894	22,946	20,913
Noils	8,896	10,886	10,880

Compiled from Bureau of the Census Quarterly Wool Stock Report, September 28, 1940.
1/ Revised.

Reserve of British-owned wool to be stored in the United States

The National Defense Advisory Commission announced in October that arrangements have been made to bring an emergency reserve supply of 250 million pounds, grease basis, of British-owned Australian wool to the United States for storage in bond. Wool is defined as a critical material by the Army and Navy Munitions Board. As such, it became necessary for the Commission to arrange for an adequate reserve as it has done in cases involving other critical materials.

Ownership of the wool to be stored will remain with the British Government. The wool may not enter the market without the approval of appropriate American officials. No withdrawal will be possible except where deficiencies appear in the supply of domestic wool or where normal imports are interrupted.

At the termination of the emergency, the United States and British Governments will determine the ultimate disposal of the reserve.

Apparel wool imports increase in September

Apparel wool imports for consumption 2/ totaled 15.2 million pounds in September compared with 9.9 million pounds in August and 12 million pounds in September 1939. Imports in the first 9 months of this year, totaling 133 million pounds, were more than twice as large as in the same period a year earlier. Imports for the calendar year 1940 probably will be substantially larger than the 150 million pounds imported in 1937. The 1937 imports were the largest in recent years. Imports for consumption of carpet wool in the first 9 months of this year totaled 101 million pounds compared with 114 million pounds imported in the same months of last year and a 5-year (1934-38) average for those months of 94 million pounds.

The increase in imports of apparel wool in the first 9 months of this year compared with the same months of 1939 was largely in medium and fine wools. Imports of wools grading 36s to 44s inclusive from January through September of this year were smaller than in the same months last year. Imports for consumption by grade groups are shown in the accompanying table.

Apparel wool: Imports for consumption by grades, United States, January-September 1939-40 and September 1940

Grades	Jan.-Sept. 1939	Jan.-Sept. 1940	Sept. 1940
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Finer than 56s	25,297	85,504	10,211
46s - 56s	11,421	26,999	2,615
44s	5,440	4,619	493
Not finer than 40s ..	18,891	15,796	1,875
Total apparel ..	61,049	132,918	15,194

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

2/ Wool entered for immediate consumption plus wool withdrawn from bonded warehouses for consumption.

September mill consumption twice as large as at low point in April

Weekly average mill consumption of apparel wool in September was 7,152,000 pounds, scoured basis. The rate of consumption in September was 15 percent higher than in August and it was 14 percent higher than in September 1939. Mill consumption of apparel wool has more than doubled since April - the low point of this year. Mill consumption from January through September of this year was equivalent to 414 million pounds greasy shorn and greasy pulled. In the same months of last year consumption on a grease basis totaled 451 million pounds. Mill consumption of carpet wool increased somewhat in September but the consumption was smaller than in September last year.

New Government orders in October

The United States Army in October awarded contracts for 2,200,000 blankets, 7,000,000 yards of 18 oz. serge, 750,000 yards of 18 oz. elastique cloth, and 8,515,000 yards of flannel shirting. Delivery of serge, elastique, and shirting contracts awarded on October 29 is to begin as soon as possible; not less than 20 percent of deliveries must be made within 60 days of award. Delivery is to be made as rapidly as possible and must be completed within 195 to 240 days of award.

Argentine wool production down slightly in 1940-41. Total supplies relatively large

Production of wool in Argentina for the 1940-41 season is expected to be about 397 million pounds, according to estimates of the Buenos Aires Branch of the First National Bank of Boston. This is a decrease of 2 percent from the Bank's revised estimate of 403 million pounds for the 1939-40 clip, but is about equal to production in 1938-39. Production since 1938 has been somewhat larger than in earlier years. Average production in Argentina for the five seasons 1934-35 through 1938-39 was 370 million pounds.

The carry-over of wool at the close of the 1939-40 season (Oct. 1, 1940) is estimated by the First National Bank at 84 million pounds, and mill consumption in Argentina is expected to total 66 million pounds. Hence, supplies available for export in the current season will total about 415 million pounds, grease basis. The supply available for the 1940-41 season is somewhat larger than that of the previous season, as a result of the relatively large carry-over on October 1.

No material change expected in Uruguay production

There is no official estimate of the Uruguay clip but production is not expected to differ materially from the 1939-40 production, which was estimated at 122 million pounds. As reported in the October Wool Situation, unsold stocks of wool in Uruguay near the close of the 1939-40 season were estimated at 7 million pounds and in addition there remained 12 to 14 million pounds of wool contracted for by European countries and awaiting shipment. Such wool might be available for resale if transportation to Europe fails.

United States buyers active in South American markets in October

United States buyers purchased relatively large quantities of fine (merino) and fine and medium crossbred wools in Argentina and Uruguay in October, the first month of the 1940-41 season. Japan also made small purchases in October. Exports to the United States from Argentina in the five weeks ended October 31 totaled about 35 million pounds, according to preliminary reports. Exports to all other countries for the same period totaled less than 2 million pounds. A considerable part of the October purchases consisted of wools carried over from the 1939-40 season. October arrivals of new clip wools were relatively small. Purchases also were made in October of new clip wools to be delivered in November, December and January. Commercial sources estimated late in October that about 22 million pounds of the 1940-41 clip in Uruguay had been contracted for by United States buyers, and about 3 million pounds had been purchased by Japan, Sweden, and Mexico. Wool prices advanced in South American markets in October.

South American wool exports below average in 1939-40 season

Exports of wool from Argentina and Uruguay in the year ended September 30, 1940 totaled 388 million pounds, greasy and scoured combined, compared with 485 million pounds exported in the previous season and a 5-year (1935-39) average of 420 million pounds. The United States took about 176 million pounds of wool from Argentina and Uruguay in 1939-40, - about 45 percent of the season's shipments from those countries. Shipments to the United States were much larger than in any recent year. Exports from Argentina and Uruguay by countries of destination, 1934-39, are shown in tables 4 and 5. Shipments for Argentina by principal classes are shown on a grease equivalent basis in the accompanying table.

Argentina: Exports of wool by classes, average 1934-38, annual 1937-39

Class	Year beginning October 1			
	Average 1934-35 to 1938-39	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Grease wool:				
Fine (Merino)	25,188	29,859	24,930	15,626
Crossbred				
Fine	87,970	89,269	85,045	52,776
Medium	25,293	23,585	29,720	28,964
Low	95,054	75,058	130,398	85,408
Crioelo or native	8,576	5,633	10,745	15,247
Belly wool	12,008	9,901	14,753	7,868
Total grease wool	254,089	233,305	295,591	205,889
Pulled wool, grease equivalent 2/	20,664	18,964	25,379	27,469
Scoured wool, grease equivalent 3/	47,262	40,950	54,454	74,862
Total all wool on grease basis	322,015	293,219	375,424	308,220

Argentine Bureau of Statistics. Pulled and scoured wool not reported by classes.
1/ Preliminary.
2/ Assuming 15 percent shrinkage.
3/ Assuming 35 percent shrinkage.

UNITED STATES WOOL SUPPLIES AND ARMY ORDERS FOR WOOL GOODS

Large orders for wool materials have been placed by the United States Government in the past 5 months as a part of the program for National Defense. Complete figures for Government orders for goods requiring wool in their manufacture have not been compiled, but requirements for Army contracts awarded from June through October are estimated to total about 160 million pounds of grease wool. This figure includes estimates for all the large contracts awarded by the United States Army, but it does not include some small orders or contracts awarded by other Government Agencies, including the Navy.

The accompanying table gives the grease and scoured equivalent of wool required for the principal Army contracts awarded from June through October 1940. Estimates of requirements for these orders by grades also are shown in the table. It will be noted that the orders are chiefly for fine wools. Until recently only wools produced in the United States could be used for the manufacture of materials for the Army, but the War Department announced on November 6 that the Army would hereafter buy materials made from both domestic and foreign wool.

Wool required for principal Army contracts
awarded June-October 1940

Grades	Greasy shorn equivalent	Scoured equivalent
	Million pounds	Million pounds
64's	75	27
58's, 60's	45	18
56's	23	10
44's or finer	17 - 23	10 - 13
Total	160 - 166	65 - 68

Grease equivalent figures are rough approximations based on incomplete data. Scoured equivalent figures obtained from grease equivalent by using average yields reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Since the United States usually does not produce wool in sufficient quantities for domestic consumption, the large orders of wool materials for the Army will increase substantially the import requirements of this country for wool. An analysis of wool supplies and consumption requirements for the present year, therefore, is significant. At the beginning of the 1940-41 wool-marketing season, stocks or carry-over of wool in the United States totaled about 180 million pounds of grease wool. The domestic production of wool for the year probably will total about 455 million pounds. Thus, the total supply of apparel wool in the United States on April 1, 1940 plus the quantity that becomes available from domestic sources in the following 12 months is about 635 million pounds. This supply, of course, is being supplemented by imports of wool as the season progresses.

How large such imports will be depends chiefly upon the requirements for mill consumption of wool during the year. In the year beginning April 1, 1939 mill consumption of wool, greasy shorn and greasy pulled, totaled about 612 million pounds. This quantity of wool used by mills was almost entirely for civilian uses. The following table shows stocks, domestic production, imports and mill consumption for 1939-40 along with similar figures for 1940-41.

United States supplies of wool, 1938-40
(Grease basis)

Item	Year beginning April 1		
	1938	1939	1940
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Stocks on April 1 1/	239	179	178
Production	436	441	454
Imports (general)	49	165	2/ 225
Total supply	724	785	2/ 857
Mill consumption	544	612	2/ 675

1/ Includes stocks held by dealers and manufacturers and on farms and ranches in the Western Sheep States, but excludes foreign wool afloat.
2/ Rough estimates.

Mill consumption in the first half (April-September) of 1940-41 was a little smaller than in the first half of 1939-40. Because of the large Government orders and fairly strong civilian demand, consumption in the last half (October-March) of 1940-41 probably will be much larger than that of a year earlier. It is roughly estimated that total mill consumption for all of 1940-41 will be about 675 million pounds, greasy shorn and greasy pulled basis. This is about 65 million pounds (10 percent) larger than the consumption in 1939-40. The percentage increase in mill consumption on a scoured basis probably will be considerably greater than that on a grease basis, because consumption this year will include a larger proportion of light shrinking foreign wools.

If consumption in 1940-41 is as large as indicated and if stocks on April 1, 1941 are as large as those of a year earlier, imports (general) of apparel wool in 1940-41 will total about 225 million pounds, compared with 165 million pounds in 1939-40. Imports from April through September were about 50 million pounds and the total from October through March probably will be from 175 to 200 million pounds.

As already indicated, the requirements for Army orders are mostly for fine wools. Consumption of wool for civilian requirements usually is fairly flexible among the several grades. That is, medium wools can be substituted for fine wools to a considerable extent. Nevertheless, it seems probable that mill consumption for civilian use in the next 4 or 5 months will include about as large a proportion of fine wool as a year earlier. Thus a major part of the United States imports during this period probably will be fine wools.

Supplies of wool in exporting countries probably are adequate for the increased needs of the United States. Most apparel wool entering international trade is produced in Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Argentina, and Uruguay (see cover page). Large quantities of wool from these countries were shipped to continental Europe before the present war. But as long as the British blockade of the European Continent continues, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Japan will be the only important outlets for exports of wool from the Southern Hemisphere.

The bulk of the wools produced in Argentina, Uruguay, and New Zealand is of the medium and coarse grades. Australia and the Union of South Africa produce mostly fine wools. For the next few months, our import requirements will be chiefly for fine wools and it is doubtful if supplies of fine wools in Argentina and Uruguay will be large enough to cover our requirements. Consequently, United States imports from Australia and the Union of South Africa are expected to be fairly large in the next several months.

1941 consumption likely to exceed that of current year

It now appears likely that mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States in 1940 will be close to the 1939 consumption of 630 million pounds, greasy shorn and pulled. Consumption in 1939 was higher than in any

recent year except 1935. The relatively large consumption this year is in part the result of large Army orders filled during the latter part of the year. Mill consumption for civilian uses in the first half of 1940 was about 10 percent smaller than in the same months of 1939, and indications are that such consumption did not increase materially during the third quarter of the year. The increase in consumption in the third quarter of 1940 largely reflected the preparation of wool to fill Army orders.

With production for civilian uses in 1940 down sharply and with increased incomes of consumers in prospect under the National Defense Program, consumption of wool for civilian uses may be increased in 1941. If in addition, new military orders are placed to be filled in 1941, total mill consumption of wool in 1941 may be substantially higher than in 1940. The high level of mill consumption in prospect for next year will be a supporting factor to prices of wool from the 1941 clip in the United States.

Table 1.- Prices of wool per pound in specified markets and prices of textile raw materials in the United States, selected periods, 1938-40

Market and description	Average 1938	Average 1939	1939 Sept.	1939 Oct.	1940 Aug.	1940 Sept.	1940 Oct.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
United States:							
Boston market -							
Territory, scoured basis -							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple	70.4	82.7	98.8	109.5	89.0	92.4	104.5
56s (3/8 blood) combing	58.9	69.3	84.9	94.1	75.4	78.5	87.2
46s (low 1/4 blood)	52.4	62.6	76.1	87.5	76.0	76.0	78.5
Bright fleece, greasy -							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine	29.0	32.9	39.5	43.0	34.8	36.0	42.1
56s (3/8 blood) combing	29.5	36.2	43.8	48.8	39.5	41.2	45.0
46s (low 1/4 blood)	28.3	35.5	43.2	49.0	41.0	41.2	43.6
Foreign wool - in bond at Boston 1/ -							
Sydney, 64s, 70s, combing, scoured basis	54.8	58.6	73.2	79.2	63.5	63.5	63.5
Cape - 12 months, combing scoured basis	53.6	53.7	67.8	73.8	61.0	61.6	63.5
Montevideo - 1s (56s) grease basis	26.1	28.3	34.5	38.5	28.8	28.8	31.5
Prices received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month	19.2	22.3	24.3	28.7	27.3	28.0	29.9
Textile fibers:							
Wool, territory fine staple 2/	70.4	82.7	98.8	109.5	89.0	92.4	104.5
Cotton, 15/16" Middling 3/	8.95	9.30	9.09	9.03	9.91	9.48	9.38
Silk, Japanese 4/	170.6	272.6	299.3	327.1	252.9	256.1	269.8
Rayon yarn, 150 denier 5/	52.2	51.5	51.5	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0
Rayon staple fiber 6/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier			25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier			46.0	46.0	43.0	43.0	43.0

Compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service except as otherwise noted.

1/ Before payment of duty. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

2/ Scoured basis, Boston market.

3/ Average at 10 markets.

4/ White, 13-15 denier, at New York, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

5/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

6/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2.-Stocks of wool held by dealers and manufacturers and stocks on farms and ranches in Western States, United States, 1935-40

Date	Grease basis						
	Apparel wool						Carpet wool
	Domestic		Foreign		Total reported	On farms and ranches 2/	all foreign 3/
	Dealers	Manufacturers 1/	On hand	Afloat			
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1935							
Mar. 30 4/	170,887	90,398	5/	28,105	289,390		41,907
June 29	183,818	112,758		22,899	319,475		43,004
Sept. 28	161,945	155,708		27,156	344,809		51,795
Dec. 31	76,861	114,239		43,433	234,533	4,500	51,772
1936							
Mar. 28	41,836	80,581		67,088	189,505	350	55,049
June 27	136,325	105,108	52,448	1,265	295,146		49,060
Sept. 26	128,845	93,696	35,912	3,145	261,598		47,462
Dec. 31	67,353	102,208	36,537	40,783	246,881	1,800	53,959
1937							
Mar. 27	34,873	81,488	77,585	18,804	212,750	330	53,923
June 26	131,967	87,989	63,024	4,407	287,387		51,172
Sept. 25	139,085	85,303	49,721	2,069	276,178		59,846
Dec. 31	134,623	66,037	37,568	1,259	239,487	31,600	63,471
1938							
Mar. 26	117,226	63,396	33,510	2,640	216,772	22,500	49,640
June 25	169,043	95,397	32,069	1,213	297,722		43,927
Sept. 24	181,847	104,559	32,306	2,445	321,157		37,969
Dec. 31	116,635	82,225	31,365	8,178	238,403	13,340	43,137
1939							
Apr. 1	68,554	64,345	39,764	8,276	180,939	6,290	48,527
July 1	107,910	103,857	38,575	5,425	255,767		46,860
Sept. 30	75,245	125,084	36,637	7,896	244,862		53,705
Dec. 31	44,051	81,491	51,749	25,243	202,534	14,384	53,942
1940							
Mar. 30	40,392	58,017	68,618	6,656	173,683	10,786	66,971
June 29	110,783	99,883	47,165	5,111	262,942		63,789
Sept. 28 6/	91,110	107,862	44,268	20,141	263,381		53,628

Compiled from Bureau of the Census, Quarterly Wool Stocks Reports. These statistics are believed to include over 95 percent of the total stocks held by, and afloat to all dealers, manufacturers and topmakers in the United States.

1/ Includes topmakers stocks.

2/ Estimated by the Department of Agriculture. Estimates are of wool on farms and ranches and in local country warehouses in 13 Western Sheep States, not including any wool of the next seasons clip. No estimates available for dates where no figures are shown.

3/ Includes carpet wool afloat to the United States.

4/ Grease basis figures for March 30, 1935 calculated from statistics of condition in which reported. Stocks figures were not reported on a grease basis by the Bureau of the Census until June 1935.

5/ Wool afloat not separately reported until June 1936. 6/ Preliminary.

Table 3.-United States: Wool imports, consumption and machinery activity, selected periods, 1938-40

Item	Year 1938	Year 1939	Jan.-Sept. 1939	Jan.-Sept. 1940	Sept. 1939	Aug. 1940	Sept. 1940
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Imports for consumption, actual weight 1/:							
Apparel	30,811	98,194	61,049	132,918	12,041	9,864	15,194
Finer than 40s	18,443	74,612	42,158	117,122	8,423	8,393	13,319
Not finer than 40s	12,369	23,582	18,891	15,796	3,618	1,471	1,875
Carpet, including camels hair	71,908	144,874	114,166	100,604	17,260	6,060	6,423
Mill consumption 2/:							
Grease basis 3/ -							
Apparel	474,527	630,150	451,199	413,707	55,285	53,525	61,644
Carpet	92,736	148,513	107,841	94,851	12,558	10,112	11,503
Scoured basis -							
Aggregate -							
Apparel	219,565	293,083	210,285	202,948	25,006	24,799	28,609
Carpet	64,945	103,421	75,244	68,140	8,847	7,571	7,941
Weekly average -							
Apparel	4,143	5,636	5,392	5,204	6,252	6,200	7,152
Carpet	1,225	1,989	1,929	1,747	2,212	1,893	1,985
	Weekly average in hours						
Machinery activity 2/:							
Hours operated per machine in place -							
Worsted combs	39.8	51.8	49.3	49.0	55.5	58.2	62.6
Worsted spindles	26.9	39.6	37.1	33.2	39.4	41.8	43.1
Woolen spindles	30.6	39.8	38.2	39.6	41.5	47.3	49.6
Woolen and worsted looms:							
Broad	28.1	40.7	39.1	35.0	36.3	40.8	42.3
Narrow	10.5	13.2	11.6	12.9	16.3	13.2	12.7
Carpet and rug looms -							
Broad	23.4	37.4	35.5	36.0	39.2	34.4	37.5
Narrow	15.9	22.7	22.2	20.7	23.1	22.1	23.2

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption and machinery activity from the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool added together.

2/ Figures for August and September based on 4 weeks, January-September on 39 weeks. 1938 figures for 53 weeks ended December 31. No adjustments made for holidays.

3/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

Table 4.-Argentina: Wool exports by principal countries of destination, average 1934-38, annual 1937-39

Country of destination	Year beginning October 1			
	Average 1934-38	1937	1938	1939
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United Kingdom	85,025	72,560	119,531	26,277
France	48,367	49,246	57,366	34,088
Germany	49,049	66,478	44,709	1/
Italy	18,962	11,100	7,172	18,803
Belgium	20,458	20,393	22,710	11,091
Netherlands	2/ 2,190	1,940	3,386	10,227
United States 3/	53,480	25,399	65,646	138,980
Japan	7,087	7,652	1,497	15,066
Other countries	20,037	21,737	35,267	27,260
Total	304,655	276,505	357,284	281,792

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by the Buenos Aires Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

1/ No shipments reported.

2/ Average of 4 years.

3/ Includes small shipments to Canada in some years.

Table 5.-Uruguay: Wool exports by principal countries of destination, average 1934-38, annual 1937-39

Country of destination	Year beginning October 1			
	Average 1934-38	1937	1938	1939
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	14,718	1,395	16,581	36,880
United Kingdom	20,489	21,098	10,763	1,423
France	7,225	4,735	6,463	1,137
Germany	30,511	36,446	36,169	4,416
Belgium	10,465	5,657	18,253	3,628
Italy	13,484	7,488	16,065	13,341
Sweden	2,178	1,708	3,075	15,841
Netherlands	3,968	2,953	8,367	13,552
Japan	7,890	3,668	1,385	5,531
Other countries	4,155	7,563	10,871	10,653
Total	115,083	92,711	127,992	106,402

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by the Buenos Aires office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.